

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 150602

70

ORIGIN EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 L-03 DODE-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 ACDA-19 SAJ-01 MBFR-03 /095 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/CE:NCLEDSKY:LCB

07/31/73 EXT 23456

APPROVED BY EUR: WSTABLER

EUR/CE: JSSUTTERLIN

L/EUR: DHSMALL

DOD/OASD/ISA: COL. BLPARR

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P R 312320Z JUL 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

USMISSION BERLIN

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 150602

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PGOV, MARR, US, UK, FR, GW, WB

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF BERLIN ACCESS CONTINGENCY PLANS

REF: A) BONN 10309; B) BERLIN 1262

1. THE DEPARTMENT CONSIDERS THAT, GIVEN CHANGES IN RECENT YEARS IN THE BERLIN AND GERMAN SITUATIONS, A REVIEW OF QUADRIpartite CONTINGENCY BERLIN PLANS SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN. THE DEPARTMENT WOULD HAVE THE FOLLOWING PRELIMINARY SUGGESTIONS ON THESE POINTS.

2. VENUE FOR STUDY: DEPARTMENT BELIEVES REVIEW PROCESS SHOULD BE CENTERED IN THE BONN GROUP, WHICH CAN CALL ON THE LIVE OAK STAFF AND BERLIN MISSIONS FOR ASSISTANCE ON
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PAGE 02 STATE 150602

INDIVIDUAL SUBJECTS OR PAPERS.

3. FIRST STEPS: DEPARTMENT AGREES THAT BONN GROUP SHOULD INITIALLY REVIEW SUBSIDIARY BQD DOCUMENTS, AS BRITISH SUGGESTED (PARA 3, REFTEL A), TO IDENTIFY THOSE: (A) WHICH ARE OUTDATED AND CAN BE DISCARDED; (B) THOSE THAT DEFINE POSSIBLE CONTINGENCIES FOR WHICH SUBSTANTIALLY ALTERED ALLIED RESPONSES MAY BE CALLED FOR; AND (C) THOSE WHICH REMAIN ESSENTIALLY VALID AS DRAFTED, EXCEPT FOR MINOR LANGUAGE CHANGES TO REFLECT, FOR EXAMPLE, THE NEW INTERNATIONAL STATUS OF THE GDR.

4. PRELIMINARY US THINKING: OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT MOST BERLIN CONTINGENCY DOCUMENTS CAN BE FITTED INTO EITHER GROUPS (A) OR (C) ABOVE. THIS IS BASED ON OUR CONCLUSION THAT, WHILE THE LIKELIHOOD OF ACCESS DIFFICULTIES OVER BERLIN HAS DIMINISHED, THE KIND OF PROBLEMS AND OUR RESPONSES TO THEM ALREADY CATALOGUED IN FOUR POWER PLANS REMAIN ESSENTIALLY CORRECT. BQD-4, TO WHICH THE FRENCH HAVE CALLED SPECIAL ATTENTION, SEEMS TO US TO REINFORCE THIS POINT. THE AGREED INITIAL ALLIED RESPONSE SET FORTH IN THAT DOCUMENT TO AN EAST GERMAN TAKE-OVER OF ALLIED PROCESSING ON THE HELMSTEDT AUTOBAHN HAS NOT BEEN RENDERED INVALID BY THE QUADRIPARTITE OR INNER-GERMAN AGREEMENTS. WE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE CONCLUSIONS CONTAINED IN BQD-4, AND WOULD CONTEND THAT THE ONLY OTHER POSSIBLE INITIAL RESPONSE WOULD INVOLVE ALLIED SELF-DENIAL, WHICH WE PRESUME NEITHER THE FRENCH NOR OTHERS IN THE BONN GROUP ADVOCATE. BQD-4 BELONGS IN OUR THINKING THEREFORE IN GROUP (C) RATHER THAN GROUP (B).

5. NEED FOR POLITICAL CONSULTATION: THE DEPARTMENT ENDORSES THE EARLIER FRENCH SUGGESTION (PARA 2, BONN 5408) THAT THERE BE ONE OR MORE GENERAL POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS OF THE BASIC CONCEPTS UNDERLYING SPECIFIC BERLIN PLANS BEFORE THE ACTUAL REVIEW PROCESS BEGINS. ROGERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 JUL 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE150602
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: NCLEDSKY:LCB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS STABLER
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973071/aaaaaaij.tel
Line Count: 97
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 A) BONN 10309; B) BERLIN 1262
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: WITHDRAWN <10-Aug-2001 by izenbei0, 3.4.X6>; RELEASED <12-Sep-2001 by garlanwa>; APPROVED <12-Sep-2001 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REVIEW OF BERLIN ACCESS CONTINGENCY PLANS
TAGS: PGOV, MARR, US, UK, FR, GE, WB
To: BONN BERLIN
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005